

BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

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FCC proposes dropping Morse code requirement entirely

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The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission included the recommendation in a July 19 Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235, but it declined to go along with any other proposed changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges. Changes to Part 97 that the FCC proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the Commission gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any new rules and concludes the proceeding with a Report and Order specifying the changes and an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said. The NPRM consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community--including one from the ARRL--that had proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC

said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again--this time on the FCC's NPRM.

The Commission said it believes dropping the 5 WPM Morse examination would encourage more people to become Amateur Radio operators and would eliminate a requirement that's "now unnecessary" and may discourage current licensees from advancing their skills. It also said the change would "promote more efficient use" of amateur spectrum.

To support dropping the code requirement, the FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges and left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements for HF access.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised to see the FCC propose scrapping the Morse requirement altogether, although the League had

(Continued on page 10)

Check us out on the web at
<http://www.bs3s.org>

WERE LATE

We apologize for the lateness of this issue. This is the issue that was planned to be out in June, but many things got in the way. I am supposed to be retired, but several special projects and consulting work, along with one of those 6 week long colds, got in the way preventing me from having the time to work on Badger State Smoke Signals.

It now looks like things are getting back to normal and we can plan on more time to work on BSSS.

It is now nearing the end of July as I am writing this and we hope to get this in the mail the first week of August, and the August issue done by the first of September. After that we hope to be back on schedule.

To those Hamfests whose ads were to be in the June issue, we will extend your schedule for 2006 without additional

charge.

In the next issue we hope to have highlights of the recent Wisconsin QSO party.

If any of you have photos or write ups about your Field Day activities we would welcome them also.

Before things got out of hand, we were able to complete out project of putting all the back issues of Smoke Signals on to CDs. The last of the missing issues were obtained from Bob Johnson, WB9EIW. We are now able to offer them for sale. See information on page 8 of this issue

Again sorry for the delays, we are back on schedule now and hope to see many of you at the hamfests and other activities in the Wisconsin area.

73 ken k9en

Flipping the pages

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WHAT’S HAPPENING

Swapfests and Other Social Events — Club Meetings Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901 — kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net

Swapfests And Other Social Events

The SEWFARS Swapfest Scheduled for June 5, 2005 at the Richfield Chalet **HAS BEEN CANCELLED** e-mail to sewfars@hotmail.com. SEWFARS Swapfest, PO Box 105, Eagle, WI 53119.

June 4th & 5th, 2005. Illinois State Convention/Princeton Hamfest, Computer & Hobby Show, Bureau County Fairgrounds, Princeton, IL For general info contact: KB9RKU 815-539-6477, e-mail w9mkshamfest@yahoo.com. Website: www.QSL.net/w9mks/hamfest.htm

July 9, 2005, South Milwaukee ARC Swapfest, American Legion Post 434, 9327 South Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. e-mail ryatex@aol.com. Phone (414) 762-3235.

June 19, 2005. Dad's Day Hamfest, Lake County Amateur Radio Club. <http://www.qsl.net/w9lj/> Talk-In: 147.600 MHz input / 147.000 MHz output (PL 131.8) Contact: Rich Gilles, KA9SVS, 156 South

Ridge Street, Crown Point, IN 46307, Phone: 219-662-0594 Email: paris156@yahoo.com

August 13, 2005 Circus City Swapfest, Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo, WI. Steve Schultze, W9UDO, (608) 356-2313 or Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, (608) 643-6908/643-6453 <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm>

August 14, 2005, 71st Annual Hamfest, Hamfesters Radio Club, <http://www.hamfesters.org>. Talk-In: 146,52 Simplex. Contact: R.J. (Bob) Morrow, KB9YRE, 4312 West 109th Street ,Oak Lawn, IL 60453, Phone: 708-636-0963 .mail: kb9yre@aol.com

September 16-17, 2005, W9DXCC Convention. Northern Illinois DX Association, <http://www.w9dxcc.com>.Talk-In: 147.36/.96. Contact: Mark Potter, W9UZ, 28 West 070 Mack Road, Wheaton, IL 60187. Phone: 630-682-4678. Email: w9uz@arrl.net

September 16-17-18, 2005. Peoria Superfest, Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds, 1601 W Northmoor Rd, off N. University, Peoria, IL. Contact: Peoria

Superfest, PO Box 3508 Peoria, IL 61612-3508. (309) 692-2378. e-mail: w9uvi@arrl.net. <http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>.

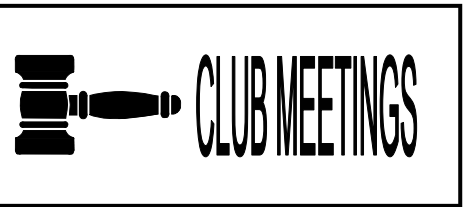
September 17-18, 2005, Radio Expo 2005, Chicago FM Club. <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>. Talk-In: 146.760 pl 107.2. Contact: Mike Brost, WA9FTS, 5127 N. Monterey Avenue, Norridge, IL 60706. Phone: 708-457-0966. Email: mbrost@cin.net

November 18-19 2005 Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo), Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society, <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>. Talk-In: 146.88 (-). Contact: James D. Boyer, KB9IH, 3031 Wilderness Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46845. Phone: 260-489-6700. Email: kb9ih@arrl.net

March 19, 2006, Jefferson, WI Tri-County Amateur Radio Club, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, Hwy 18 West, Jefferson, WI. For information contact: TCARC, 213 Frederick St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538, www.cmdline.com/tcarc/, jsatt@ticon.net or (920) 563-6381 (evenings), (200 563-

9551 (fax). <http://www.cmdline.com/tcarc>

Further information about hamfests in the area can be found at bsss.org or at <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests.html> If your organization is sponsoring a Hamfest/ Swapfest and would like us to list your event, please send the information to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN at the address below or to k9en@arrl.net



Appleton
FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond Street, Appleton, WI Information: Pat, K9IK, 920.725.1149. PLa-tour428@aol.com Web: <http://www.w9zl.ampr.org/>

Baraboo
BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS) Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/>

Baraboo
YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: See the YTARC column elsewhere in this issue for meeting times and locations. For further information: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>.

Dubuque, IA
GREAT RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Center, 2400 Asbury Road. The club serves the tri-state area. On the Web: <http://www.qsl.net/wb0lob/>. Information or questions to: N0hdc@aol.com.

Eau Claire
EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, President, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Phone (715) 838-9108, Email kg9ra@ecarc.org. Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

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Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

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TREASURER: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

Subscription Rate

1 year (6 issues—bi-monthly)\$13.95

A subscription form is in this issue. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month before the issue date. For example, the closing date for the May issue is April 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

Web page material should be sent to n9qa@arrl.net (Dave Knaus, N9QA).

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN no later than eight weeks before the

events date.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*.

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Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

(Continued from page 2)

Fond du Lac
FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Sunday net: 7:30 p.m. CDT, K9IA repeater, 145.430 - PL 107.2 Information: Jack Heil, KG9IN, 920.922.1413. Email: kg9in@fdlhams.org Web: <http://www.fdlhams.org>.

Fort Atkinson
TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920.563.6502, or John Satterlee, WA9SAB, 920.563.6381.

Grafton
Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC) Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center, 1665 7th. Ave., Grafton, Wisconsin www.qsl.net/orc/.

Green Bay
GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere. Information: Kevin at kb9sne@yahoo.com.

Green Lake
GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Greater Green Lake County area. Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

Houghton, MI area:
The CCRAA is the "Copper Country Radio Amateur Association" and they hold meetings the first Tuesday of each month at the Dollar Bay Fire Hall. Summer meetings (June, July, August, and September) are held at the CCRAA Clubhouse in Osceola (2 mi. S. of Calumet, MI)

Hudson
St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS
Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

Juneau
ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7278 KHZ, Alternate in 3.947 at 10:00 AM. & Wednesday, 1908 KHZ 8:00 PM, Wintertime.

Madison
SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER
No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: n9uw@sal.wisc.edu.

Madison
BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT Meetings: Third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in UW Union South. Room number posted on the Today in The Union board. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: w9ixg@arrl.org. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

Madison
Madison DX Club, meetings are on every fourth Tuesday of each month; see <http://madisondxclub> for more details.

Madison
FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

Manitowoc
MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad) Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and Regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on northwest side of city.) For Additional information please see our club web-site www.qsl.net/w9dk or contact Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: w6bsf@arrl.net.

Marinette WI
Menominee MI
Amateur Radio Club Meetings held second Thursday 7:00PM each month BAMC Tenth Avenue Menominee Michigan in the basement. Guests welcome e-mail secretary kg9ad@arrl.net

Medford
Black River Amateur Radio Association Meetings: Normally the first Thursday of each month. Usual meeting time is 7 PM. Most meetings are held at the Taylor County Courthouse. Directions: Those attending should park in the main courthouse parking lot on the east side of the building, and enter using the main courthouse entrance or the sheriff's dept. entrance. Proceed to the lower level of the courthouse using the stairs or elevator. We meet in the "break room" on the lower level, near the Emergency Government office. Talk-in on the 147.15 repeater (114.8 Hz PL, +600 kHz offset) and 146.52 MHz simplex. Contact: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

Menomonee Falls
FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

Menomonie WI
Saturday coffee at Burger King, 544 Main Street, at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot, 2616 Hills Court, north of Walmart on highway 25 North, in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Milwaukee
GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIA-

TION Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (262) 363-4439. Email: garyk9gs@arrl.net.

Milwaukee
MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB
Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Mailing address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> . Email: w9rh@arrl.net.

Monomonie
RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC. Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomonie, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart Shopping Center in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

Northeast Area
NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check <http://home.new.rr.com/newdxa/>. Contact us at w9dxa@arrl.net.

Oak Creek
SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post #434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. In March and October the meetings are turned into Auction Nights.. The club WEB site is [ww.qsl.net/wa9txe](http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe)

Onalaska
RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska Community Center. More information: <http://www.qsl.net/wr9arc/> . Email: wr9arc@qsl.net.

QCWA Chapter 162
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162. Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

QCWA Chapter 55
QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N. Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. <mailto:rryokes@execpc.com>.

Racine
LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION
Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Racine
RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

Rhineland
NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: Third Tuesday of Sept., Nov., Dec., Feb., and April for dinner business meetings at Ella's Restaurant, Jct. of Hwy. 51 and 70, north side of Woodruff, WI. Talkin on Sayner or Tomahawk repeaters. The Northwoods ARC News is on the club web site, <http://www.freeyellow.com/members7/nwarc>.

Sheboygan
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Tuesdays. 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

Shell Lake
Northland ARC meetings are held the first Saturday of each month after breakfast. Location: Schmitz's Economart Deli. Located on US Hwy.63 on the south end of Spooner. The meeting will start at approx. 8:00 AM. Breakfast usually starts by 7:30 AM. Come and see what we're about. Anyone, even if you're licensed or not and has an interest in ham radio is welcome to attend! Next Meeting: Sept 4th, 2004 at 8:00 AM. So Please plan to attend!!!! <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>.

Stevens Point
CWRA Ltd./UWSP ARC Meetings second Wednesday. of each month at 7:30 pm. Science Building on the UW-Stevens Point Campus, Room A107, Stevens Point, WI. Email: jglas776@uwspl.edu. Webpage: www.qsl.net/wb9qfw.

Superior
ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

W.A.R. WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS
Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State in March, July and November. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

Watertown
WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

Waupaca
WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CQ
First Tue. Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. CQ Third Fri. Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

Wausau
WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIA-

(Continued on page 7)

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

WISCONSIN NETS

| Net | WNA | Freq. | UTC | LOCAL | Manager |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----------|------|-------|---------|
| BWN | YES | 3985 | 1100 | 0600 | W9IXG |
| BEN | YES | 3985 | 1700 | 1200 | KE9VU |
| WSBN | YES | 3985 | 2215 | 1715 | K9FHI |
| WNN | YES | 3723 | 2300 | 1800 | KB9ROB |
| WSSN | YES | 3645 | 2330 | 1830 | WA9ZTY |
| WIN/E | YES | 3662 | 0000 | 1900 | WB9ICH |
| WIN/L | YES | 3662 | 0300 | 2200 | W9UW |
| RCRA | NO | 01/61 | 0030 | 1930 | KA9OMC |
| (Mondays CDT— Menomonie Area) | | | | | |
| Green Bay Area | NO | 72/12 | 0245 | 2145 | WB9NRK |
| ARES | NO | 4.65/5.25 | 0200 | 2100 | |
| (South East/South Central Wisconsin) | | | | | |
| ARES/RACES (WRACES) | NO | 3996 | 2300 | 1800 | KB9ENO |

STM Report Wisconsin Section March 2005

FAQ #39 What gets counted in the check? If the check is made out to me, I hope the amount of dollars is large and. . . Oh. (Sound of hand smacking forehead) You mean the check in a formal NTS message! That's easy. What gets counted is the text, that is, everything between the break after the address and phone number up to the break before the signature. Each word, number group, and x-ray is counted as one. Tally them up, and you've got the check, a quick way to test the accuracy of the copy.

A missing word could make the difference -

especially is the missing word is **not**. The closing, that is, the words just before the signature, such as love, 73, or see you soon, is counted as part of the text. Phone numbers are broken into three words -- area code, exchange, and last four digits. ARRL Numbered Radiograms are always written out, so the message for happy birthday is ARL FORTY SIX (a count of three words). The text, "Thank you for your message number 345" would have a check of seven.

Writing the text in lines of five words per line makes it easy. Don't forget to indicate the break just before and after the text, and the check will come out just right. You can *count* on it.

73 - K9LGU/STM-WI

STM Report Wisconsin Section April 2005

FAQ #40 Is there anything I can do to help insure my message gets to the right person? We've spoken of preambles and the check of the text. The name, address, and phone number of the addressee is - of course - how the message gets where it's going. Include the correct first name, a middle initial if known, and the correctly-spelled last name. Do not assume the receiving station is going to know the proper spelling of Przybyliski. Junior or senior? Say so. Give the complete address - street number, direction, and correctly-spelled street name. If there's an apartment number, include it. Then, list the telephone number -- area code first, exchange, and final

four digits. If there's an alternate number, list that, too.

FAQ #41 What's WIN? The Wisconsin Intrastate Net meets in two daily sessions on 3662 as part of our section nets system. Notice the name specifies INTRA (within) state, as opposed to INTER (between) states, although the net handles plenty of traffic outbound or incoming for our state. The net managers for WIN are WB9ICH (early sessions) and W9UW (late sessions) and their experience has kept these nets functioning smoothly for many years. Ninth Region representatives take traffic from the early session - 7 p.m.- to the evening 9RN's and bring traffic for Wisconsin back to the late session at 10 p.m. And - if you check in - you WIN!

73 -- K9LGU/ STM - WI

Check us out on the web at
<http://www.bssts.org>

WISCONSIN SECTION STM REPORT MAY 2005

FAQ # 43 Are those ARRL Numbered Radiograms really that helpful?

We admire efficiency. We remember slogans that hold a lot of meaning in a few words. We use plenty of acronyms, e.g. CW, SSB, PSK. The ARRL Numbered Radiogram list (FSD-3) allows us to maintain accuracy while we significantly compress common messages.

In fact, within the text of a message, even the name of each text is shortened by leaving out an “R.” Yes, it’s much more efficient to tighten a twenty-three-word message to three words as in “ARL TWENTY TWO.” This works great throughout the National Traffic System, but...

When it comes to the delivery of a message with an ARRL Numbered text, that message should *always* be translated into all the words it represents. Even if the final recipient is a Ham, don’t assume he or she has easy access to the list of texts (although you do at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/fsd3.html>). As communicators, it’s our job to make the message as clear as possible, so read the entire meaning of the numbered text when you deliver a message. ARL FIFTY THREE anticipated cooperation.

73 – K9LGU/STM-WI

WISCONSIN SECTION MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY MARCH 2005

| | | | | | |
|--------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| NET | QNI | QTC | QTR | SSNS | NM |
| BWN | 1570 | 1991 | 3549 | 31 | W9IXG |
| BEN | 426 | 29 | 748 | 29 | KE9VU |
| WSBN | 809 | 125 | 1202 | 31 | K9FHI |
| WNN | 106 | 9 | 238 | 23 | KB9ROB |
| WSSN | 145 | 6 | 259 | 25 | N9JIY |
| WIN/E | 206 | 55 | 265 | 30 | WB9ICH |
| WIN/L | 129 | 48 | 277 | 31 | W9UW |
| WRACES | 109 | 0 | 244 | 4 | N9VAO |
| totals | 3500 | 2263 | 6782 | 204 | |

MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY APRIL 2005

| | | | | | |
|--------|------|------|------|------|--------|
| NET | QNI | QTC | QTR | SSNS | NM |
| BWN | 1585 | 2059 | 3096 | 30 | W9IXG |
| BEN | 402 | 17 | 679 | 26 | KE9VU |
| WSBN | 705 | 106 | 1047 | 30 | K9FHI |
| WNN | 141 | 9 | 263 | 26 | KB9ROB |
| WSSN | 149 | 13 | 262 | 27 | N9JIY |
| WIN/E | 184 | 41 | 286 | 30 | WB9ICH |
| WIN/L | 131 | 30 | 259 | 30 | W9UW |
| WRACES | 115 | 0 | 295 | 4 | N9VAO |
| totals | 3412 | 2275 | 6187 | 203 | |

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY MARCH 2005

| | | | | | |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------------|
| STATION | ORIG | RCVD | SENT | DLVD | TOTAL |
| K9JPS | 0 | 698 | 33 | 685 | 1416 - BPL |
| N9VE | 0 | 233 | 33 | 231 | 497 - BPL* |
| KA9EKG10 | 195 | 187 | 9 | 481 | |

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654
(262) 284-9346
Skaplan@mcw.edu



No. 123. More Goodies

There are lots of programs out there that can make your life easier. Often, the software will let you do things better than the software that came with your Windows operating system. In other cases, the software will provide you with information not otherwise available to you, the end user, because Microsoft decided you did not need that information. I will share a couple of these programs with you.

Of course, there are companies in business that provide programs that are often excellent and very useful, and sometimes it is well worth the fee you must pay for them. I have written about several that are definitely worth the money: Norton Systemworks, Partition Magic and Zone Alarm Pro are among them. But then there are lots of smaller programs out there that are also excellent. They generally fall into two categories. Shareware are software programs you can try for a period, and you pay for them thereafter if you find them suitable for your needs. Freeware programs are free – often written by folks to do stuff that they themselves wanted to do, but could not find available software to do it. So they wrote the program to meet their own needs, and then decided to make it available to others at no cost. Very nice, indeed!

By the way, Zone Labs is an unusual company. Although they are in business and therefore expect to collect money for their services, they make Zone Alarm available free. Oh yes, it is true that they charge a (quite reasonable) fee for their Zone Alarm Pro. But they distribute their basic Zone Alarm program without cost to individuals, and it uses the same basic engine as Zone Alarm Pro. Their motive in providing the free product is to protect the computers of home users. This is truly an unusual and commendable example of a corporation with stellar moral principles!

The goodies I would like to mention are all freeware. Each can be downloaded and used without cost.

First is METAPAD by Alexander Davidson. METAPAD was written as a Notepad replacement when Mr. Davidson became frustrated with the poor usability of the Notepad text editor. It is tiny – the zip file you download is only 46kb in size. Yet, it is fast, and it loads in an instant. It works with just about every version of Windows (9x, ME, NT, 2000, XP). It has lots of options that make it easily customizable for your needs. Best of all, his website gives instructions on how to install it so that, whenever Notepad is invoked, METAPAD will load instead. METAPAD is a very useful, free program. Get it at <http://liquidninja.com/metapad/>

Next is SIW (System Information for Windows), by Gabriel Topala. This is an amazing freeware program that will tell you just about anything you want to know about your computer. Under Hardware, it will show great detail about the motherboard, the BIOS, the CPU, the PCI bus and more. It will also show detailed information about Software and any Network you may have installed. Amazingly, if you click Tools, Secrets, it will show the serial numbers of the Windows CD used to install your version, as well as the numbers of other installed software that required a serial number during installation. Even more amazing, the yellow “smiley-face” icon invokes a sub-program called Eureka. When started, Eureka provides a magnifying glass for you to pass over any starred-out password (****) on the desktop, which is then revealed in English. SIW is definitely a handy program for quickly ferreting out information about your system. Download it (1,090kb) from Mr. Topala’s website at <http://www3.simpatico.ca/gtopala/>. Watch that www3; it is not a typo.

BA (BIOS Agent) is a tiny (318kb)

program that focuses on the BIOS and associated information that would be needed for a BIOS update. BIOS type, date, ID, OEM sign-on, Super I/O, Chipset and Operating System are shown instantly, along with the CPU type, speed and other details. The program then wants to take you to the vendor’s website to order a new BIOS, but you can easily opt out of that pathway. Worth the trouble to download if you want detailed information on your BIOS. Get it at <http://members.driverguide.com/driver/detail.php?driverid=117565>. Look for BA.EXE.

Finally, DISKCHECKUP, a 44kb zip file available at <http://www.passmark.com/download/index.htm>, is a utility that will check the SMART status of all the hard drives in your system. SMART = Self Monitoring Analysis and Reporting Technology, which many people don’t know about. All modern hard drives have the ability to note and record errors that occur, and this little utility will show the data recorded in the small database on each hard drive in your system. What kind of information? Read errors, power on time, power cycle count, seek errors, spin retries and much more. More important, aside from all the “techie” stuff, there is a column that says OK, WARNING or FAIL. If you see either of the latter two descriptors, it is time for you to back up your data and buy a new drive, because it will not be long before the old one dies! Well worth the effort to download and install, DISKCHECKUP is a tool that can save you from loosing everything on your hard drive.

I have said before that a hard drive is the most complicated mass-produced electromechanical device on earth. What is even more amazing is that, with the advent of the new SMART technology, this incredible device also monitors its own state of health! Get and try DISKCHECKUP to access and read what your hard drive thinks of itself, if only to satisfy your own curiosity. Happy Computing!

No. 124. Rootkit: Malnews

Most of us think we have our computing environment pretty much under control. We use a virus scanner to keep our machines clean, and we update the virus definitions regularly to make sure we are ready to meet the latest threats. Many of us use additional software to keep our machines free of spyware – programs that can collect personal information without our consent and send it back via the web to unscrupulous individuals or companies that seek to rob us or otherwise make a dishonest profit. Viruses, spyware, key

loggers, trojan horses – all are lumped together under the general definition of malware. Mal comes from the Latin word *malus*, which means badly. In English, mal- is a prefix meaning bad. Virus writers can be considered to be maladjusted individuals!

Well, I have some malnews. There is a malware mechanism or technique that is rearing its head and may cause many of us difficulties. It is not really new; some viruses used similar techniques at least 20 years ago. However, it is being revived. Called Rootkit, it can be used with any kind of virus, trojan, spyware and so on. Indeed, commercial key loggers are using it right now – key loggers are programs you can purchase that will log every keystroke on a machine for later perusal of the user’s activities by the person who installed the key logger software.

Let us use an example to illustrate. Suppose a conventional virus infects your machine. It is what is generally known as a “well written” virus since it does no harm other than what the writer intended. Its payload consists of writing the words SAVE THE TREES in 72-point type on your screen every Friday at 9:00 a.m., if the machine is on at that time, and the words reappear on every boot each Friday. Lets call this pretend virus (I just made it up) the Tree Virus. A scan by Norton or another virus scanner can find and delete it from your machine. It is not a rootkit virus.

However, the author rewrites the Tree Virus to include rootkit techniques. It is now called the Rootkit Tree Virus. So what is the rootkit technique? It hides itself from system management utilities, spyware blockers and antivirus scanners! They can’t see it! How can Norton Anti-virus spot and delete or disinfect a virus if it cannot see it? How can Webroot Spy-sweeper detect and quarantine a spyware program if it cannot see it? The simple answer is: they cannot. Guess what? That includes you. If you use Explorer to examine a folder with a rootkit virus in it, you will not see its filename!

How does it do this? In the old DOS days, when we wanted to see the files in a folder (subdirectory), we issued a DIR command. Instantly a list of file names, extensions, size and date/time stamps would appear as a column on our screens. Now days, when we use Explorer to examine the contents of a folder, we see much the same (though you may well see only icons unless you select **View** and **Details** to see the output in column format). Rootkit malware simply intercepts the informa-

(Continued on page 6)

Check us out on the web at
[Http://www.bsos.org](http://www.bsos.org)

The Computer Corner

(Continued from page 5)
tion before it gets to the screen or printer, and removes itself from the listing! Well now, virus scanners also use the system calls that Explorer uses to view the contents of a folder. So the virus scanner also gets misled, because it cannot see the file containing the virus, so it doesn’t scan it. Devilishly clever!

What I am saying, folks, is that some people have a virus on their machine that is not being detected by the best commercial virus scanner software on the market today! Fortunately, there are relatively few rootkit malware programs out “in the wild” at present – just a handful. And the antivirus software makers are busy at work preparing programs that can find and kill rootkits. Microsoft is preparing a commercial program, “Strider Ghostbuster” as I write this (22Apr05). There are two free scanners available at this time: “RootkitRevealer” (www.sysinternals.com), and “Blacklight” (www.f-secure.com, free only to 1Jul05). Everything available

now is in beta format – the companies are preparing to hit the market with full-fledged tools later, after their products are polished.

How do they do it? The rootkit scanners do two scans. The first is a complete scan of the system at the highest level – just like Explorer, or even you when you (the human user) use a Command Prompt window to execute a DIR command. Next it does another scan at a very low level – the raw contents of a file system volume or registry hive (the registry’s on-disk storage format). Then it displays the difference. Anything showing up in the difference tally is at least suspect (but there may indeed be false positives). False positives should be less of a problem in the future as the technology learns to ignore system files that really should be hidden in the high level scans. At present, it is left up to the user to delete the positives or not.

Well, you read about it here first! Happy Computing!

WISCONSIN SECION MANAGER REPORT

MARCH 2005

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: KB9ENO, STM: K9LGU, SGL: AD9X, OOC: N9VE, PIC: KB9NUM. TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK ASM: K9UTQ, W9RCW, W9DGI, N9VE.

** With regret, I am informing you of the following Silent Key: > Gerald Belhumeur, KC9BK, 68.

** April 30-May 1: Amateur radio comes alive aboard the WW II memorial submarine "USS COBIA" N9BQV in Manitowoc, WI. See April QST page 98 for details!

** Richard Regent, K9GDF, our Technical Coordinator, racked up 206 WIQP CW contacts in 51 Wisconsin Counties, 22 States and 1 Canadian Province (and 15 DX stations) for 45,732 points using just a downspout and rain-gutter for his antenna!!

** The ECARC had a great time using the W0AIH Contest Station during the Wisconsin QSO Party. They used the club call W9EAU. The following Hams partici-

pated: KB9S, KI9H, KI0F, N0BUI, KC9CGW, KC9CRG, KB9YFQ, AB9EJ, KB9SGY, KG0KM, AA9UK, W0ZUP, W5JLM, N9LHW, KD9QD, W9RMA, W9SWL, KB9YFQ, W9ERW, KC9NN, AB9GK, KD9QD, N9LHW. A new club record score of 357,050.5 points!! Congratulations!!

** QCWA hams were among the volunteers playing hostages in a recent terrorism exercise in Racine. This was a rare opportunity for hams to get up close to the action. Story at:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/racine/mar05/309618.asp>

** The M&M ARC continue to bring youngsters into the hobby. The newest Ham is Joey Callow, KC9HJR, age 9. Joey is the grandson of K8IR and he took his exam at the AES Superfest. Well done, Joey! Hope you enjoy that new VX-5R HT your grandpa bought you! And, also, the complimentary 2005 club membership given to everyone who graduates from the instruction classes.

** The Wisconsin Valley Radio Association recently participated in a joint

Check us out on the web at
<http://www.bsos.org>

grant venture with the Rib Mountain Repeater Association to procure money to help complete the WVRA's Antenna and Feedline Upgrade Project and RMRA's equipment upgrade of their repeater site radios and equipment. The Walter Alexander Foundation contributed \$5,000 to the project!

** Rich Nesbitt -- N9MO, a sarcoma survivor, is organizing the 3rd Walk-for-Sarcoma Event in Central Wisconsin. Volunteers are needed to form a relay team to walk from Marshfield to Wausau (about 45 miles) on June 11. People walk as little as a mile or as far as they want. Volunteers are needed to support the walkers and to help operate the W4S -- Walk for Sarcoma Special Event Station. There will be a Tug-O-War Competition this year at Hanna's Henhouse on County Road P in Edgar to raise research funds for sarcoma. There will be 3 team types -- men, women, and corporate/club challenge. It has been suggested that the amateur radio clubs in Central Wisconsin compete for top honors. Please consider forming a 5-man team to support to worthy cause. WVRA will be participating in the Walk and Special Event Station. Read about the last event on Nesbitt's sarcoma website <http://www.sarcomasupport.com>. The lead walker's position will be tracked with Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS). Watch the progress of the event at:

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/track.cgi?N9MO>* Contact Rich N9MO at 715-384-3489 or 800-847-0016 ext 73390 or nesbit@charter.net with questions.

** Our STM report from Denny,

APRIL 2005

WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3985 0500-0715 W9IXG. BEN 3985 1200 KE9VU. WSNB 3985 1730-1800 K9FHI. WNN 3723 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3645 1830 N9JIY. WIN-E 3662 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3662 2200 W9UW. (All times are Central)

** With regret, I inform you of the passing of the following Amateurs:

-- Dennis Nelson, W9DWN, 53, a member of the ManCoRad amateur radio club and NEWDXA (Northeast Wisconsin DX Association) club.

-- Dennis Doonan, W9DAD, 56, succumbed to cancer. Dennis was an OO, TS, and a member of Lakeshore Repeater Assn and the Racine Megacycle Club. He was quite active in 10-10 International, and

K9LGU:

FAQ #39 What gets counted in the check? The text, that is, everything between the break after the address and phone number up to the break before the signature. Each word, number group, and x-ray is counted as one. Tally them up, and you've got the check, a quick way to test the accuracy of the copy. The closing, that is, the words just before the signature, such as love, 73, or see you soon, is counted as part of the text. Phone numbers are broken into three words -- area code, exchange, and last four digits. Writing the text in lines of five words per line makes it easy. Don't forget to indicate (but not count) the break just before and after the text, and the check will come out just right. You can count on it. 73 - K9LGU/STM-WI

** This is the beginning of the public service season. We hope many of you partake in them. They are a lot of fun and a good means of communications training, also.

As a reminder from the ARRL Chief Counsel, Chris Imlay, participation in these events is under the FCC regulation 97.113. Whether the event is non-profit, for-profit, whether for a charity or not, you may participate provided you abide by 97.113--prohibited transmissions. You can review that regulation at this site: <http://www.ncvec.org/page.php?id=121> Help provide the safety net that Amateur communications can offer the participants!

73, Don, W9IXG
ARRL Wisconsin Section Section Manager:

was the Lighthouse Chapter (Racine) President at one time plus a big supporter of the Amateur Radio League Of Wisconsin (ARLOW).

** The 2005 Armed Forces Day military/amateur cross band communications test will take place May 14-15. The US Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are co-sponsoring the annual event in celebration of the 55th anniversary of Armed Forces Day, which is Saturday, May 21. The Armed Forces Day radio event is scheduled a week earlier to avoid conflicts with Dayton Hamvention, May 20-22. The annual Armed Forces Day on-the-air celebration features the traditional military-to-amateur cross-band communications SSB voice test and the Secretary of Defense message-receiving test. QSL cards will be provided to those making

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 3)
TION Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Location varies. Information: 146.64 (-600).
<http://home.dwave.net/~wvra/>.

West Allis
West Allis Radio Amateur Club Second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 80th and Lincoln Ave., West Allis. Meetings in basement. Entrance at rear, off alley. Handicapped accessible.
www.warac.org.

West Bend
WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-600).

Wisconsin Rapids
WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry into the building.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| June 04, 2005 | Madison, WI |
| June 04, 2005 | Racine, WI |
| June 04, 2005 | St. Paul, MN |
| June 09, 2005 | Apple Valley, MN |
| June 11, 2005 | Negaunee, MI |
| June 11, 2005 | Blaine, MN |
| June 11, 2005 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| June 16, 2005 | Iron River, MI |
| June 18, 2005 | Mauston, WI |
| June 18, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| June 18, 2005 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| June 21, 2005 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| June 25, 2005 | Bloomington, MN |
| June 25, 2005 | Tomahawk, WI |
| July 02, 2005 | Madison, WI |
| July 02, 2005 | St. Paul, MN |
| July 09, 2005 | Houghton, MI |
| July 09, 2005 | Blaine, MN |
| July 09, 2005 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| July 10, 2005 | Marshfield, WI |
| July 14, 2005 | Apple Valley, MN |
| July 15, 2005 | Iron River, MI |
| July 16, 2005 | Loves Park, IL |
| July 16, 2005 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| July 19, 2005 | Sheboygan, WI |
| July 19, 2005 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| July 20, 2005 | Washington Island, WI |
| July 23, 2005 | Portage, WI |
| July 23, 2005 | Eau Claire, WI |
| July 23, 2005 | Bloomington, MN |
| July 30, 2005 | Tomahawk, WI |
| July 30, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| August 06, 2005 | Appleton, WI |
| August 06, 2005 | Iron Mountain, MI |
| August 06, 2005 | St. Paul, MN |
| August 11, 2005 | Apple Valley, MN |
| August 13, 2005 | Blaine, MN |
| August 13, 2005 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| August 16, 2005 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| August 18, 2005 | Iron River, MI |
| August 20, 2005 | Loves Park, IL |
| August 20, 2005 | Adams, WI |
| August 20, 2005 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| August 27, 2005 | Bloomington, MN |
| August 27, 2005 | Tomahawk, WI |
| September 03, 2005 | Racine, WI |
| September 03, 2005 | St. Paul, MN |
| September 08, 2005 | Apple Valley, MN |
| September 10, 2005 | Negaunee, MI |
| September 10, 2005 | Onalaska, WI |
| September 10, 2005 | Blaine, MN |
| September 10, 2005 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| September 15, 2005 | Iron River, MI |
| September 17, 2005 | Sheboygan, WI |
| September 17, 2005 | Mauston, WI |
| September 17, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| September 17, 2005 | Loves Park, IL |
| September 17, 2005 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| September 20, 2005 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| September 24, 2005 | Bloomington, MN |
| September 24, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| September 24, 2005 | Tomahawk, WI |
| October 01, 2005 | Racine, WI |
| October 01, 2005 | St. Paul, MN |
| October 08, 2005 | Houghton, MI |
| October 08, 2005 | Blaine, MN |
| October 08, 2005 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| October 13, 2005 | Apple Valley, MN |
| October 15, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| October 15, 2005 | Loves Park, IL |
| October 15, 2005 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| October 18, 2005 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| October 20, 2005 | Iron River, MI |
| October 22, 2005 | Bloomington, MN |
| October 29, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| October 29, 2005 | Tomahawk, WI |
| November 05, 2005 | Racine, WI |
| November 05, 2005 | St. Paul, MN |
| November 10, 2005 | Apple Valley, MN |
| November 12, 2005 | Iron Mountain, MI |
| November 12, 2005 | Onalaska, WI |
| November 12, 2005 | Blaine, MN |
| November 12, 2005 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| November 15, 2005 | Eden Prairie, MN |
| November 17, 2005 | Iron River, MI |
| November 19, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| November 19, 2005 | Loves Park, IL |
| November 19, 2005 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| November 26, 2005 | Bloomington, MN |
| November 26, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| December 03, 2005 | Racine, WI |
| December 03, 2005 | St. Paul, MN |
| December 08, 2005 | Apple Valley, MN |
| December 10, 2005 | Negaunee, MI |
| December 10, 2005 | Blaine, MN |
| December 10, 2005 | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| December 15, 2005 | Iron River, MI |
| December 17, 2005 | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| December 17, 2005 | Loves Park, IL |
| December 17, 2005 | Cottage Grove, MN |
| December 20, 2005 | Eden Prairie, MN |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Monthly, 1st Sat. | Racine, WI |
| (except Jan., Jul., & Aug.) | |
| Monthly, 1st Sat. | St. Paul, MN |
| Monthly, 2nd Thu. | Apple Valley, MN |
| Monthly, 2nd Sat. | Blaine, MN |
| Monthly, 2nd Sat. | Oshkosh (Omro), WI |
| Monthly, 3rd Tue. | Eden Prairie, MN |
| Monthly, 3rd Thu. | Iron River, MI |
| Monthly, 3rd Sat. | Milwaukee, WI (BE) |
| (September through April) | |
| Monthly, 3rd Sat. | Loves Park, IL |
| Monthly, 3rd Sat. | Cottage Grove, MN |
| Monthly, 4th Sat. | Bloomington, MN |
| Monthly, Last Sat. | Milwaukee, WI (MRAC) |
| (Except Mar., Jun., Aug., & Dec.) | |
| Monthly, Last Sat. | Tomahawk, WI |
| (January thru October only) | |

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS: Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session.

There may be changes and/or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walk-ins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A Hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Get your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>
or
<ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, WIAW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2005 test fee at \$14.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC.

Adams, WI
Adams City Fire Dept., 101 N. Main St., Highway 13, Adams, WI. Contact Edward J. Wagner (608) 584-4858. ab9fn@arrl.net

Appleton, WI
Fox Cities ARC (ARRL/VEC) All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building, 1302 East Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. No walk-ins after 9 a.m. For information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Wil-

lows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. Email: w9mdp@arrl.net.

Eau Claire, WI
Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club. Grace Lutheran Church, 202 W., Grand Ave. Enter off 2nd Avenue entrance, Eau Claire, WI
Technician, General and Extra Class exams. Walk-ins welcome. Examination session coordinator: Jonathan E., Case, (715) 834-1540. www.ecarc.org. w9eau@ecarc.org.

Fond du Lac, WI
Fond du Lac ARC (ARRL/VEC). Community United Methodist Church, 701 Minnesota Ave., North Fond du Lac. 9:00 a.m. Walk-ins allowed. Contact: Douglas J. Schultz, 920-922-3088, schultz74@charter.net.

Houghton MI: Sponsor: HARC/CCRAA. Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: George R Thurner (906)337-2542. Email: W8FWG@ARRL.NET VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: Michigan Tech University-US Hwy 41. Wadsworth Residence Hall, East End of Campus, G11w (Downstairs/Turn Left), Houghton, MI 49931

Iron Mountain, MI 49801: Sponsor: W5YI VEC. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-Ins Allowed). Contact: Mark J Lewis, (906)337-2542 . VEC: W5YI.VEC. Location: Dickinson County Library, 401 South Iron Mountain St., Arrival Time: 9:00 AM. Conference Room, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Iron River, MI. Sponsor: Iron Range ARA (IRARC). Time: 6:30 PM (No walk-ins). Contact: Dan R Waters, (906)265-4240. Email: dmwaters@ironriver.tv VEC: W5YI.VEC. Location: Iron River Lutheran Church, Across From Mcdonald's. Pre-Registration Required. If no applicants - No testing. Iron River, MI 49935

Madison, WI
First Saturday monthly: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Space Place, 1605 South Park Street, Madison. Please bring a picture ID, your original license, a copy of your license, and the original and a copy of any relevant CSCEs, and a check for \$12.00 made out to the ARRL/VEC. No appointments are necessary to take exams. Exams start promptly at 8 a.m. Questions may be directed to Tim Czerwonka, WO9U, at 608-239-3696 (home phone) or sent to wo9u@arrl.net.

Marshfield, WI
Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. Saint Joseph's Hospital, 611 Saint Joseph Ave., Room 124, Hospice South Bldg., Marshfield, WI 54449. Contact Lee A. Olson, (715) 389-8888.

Mauston, WI (ARRL/VEC)
Sponsored by the Juneau County ARC. 9:30 a.m. (Walk-ins allowed). Mauston City Hall, 303 Mansion St., Community Room, 4th Floor, Mauston, WI. Contact Edward J. Wagner, (608) 584-4858. ab9fn@arrl.net

Menominee, MI
Marinette-Menominee Amateur Radio Club. Location: The cafeteria of Bay Area

THE TEST POINT

(Continued from page 7)

Med Center, US-41 in Menominee. Building located next to KFC just off the Interstate Bridge. All classes given. Advance notice preferred, but not required. Test fee is \$10 with two pieces of identification required. Contact Jeff Rymer, N9PQU at jrymer@ez-net.com or Ed Engleman, KG8CX, at dxer@cybrzn.com. We will monitor the 147.000 (107.2 pl) repeater in event further directions or info is needed.

Milwaukee, WI
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC VEC) Last Saturday, except in March, June, August, and December. In addition, we test at the West Allis RAC Swapfest in January and at Superfest in April. 9:30 a.m. to noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Road (the door you enter is actually numbered 5730), Milwaukee. For additional information, call (262) 797-MRAC. Bring along your original license, CSCE (if any), and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$8.00 for the exam fee. Walkins are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card. Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number, and send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Contact: John G. Kraak, 262-797-6722.

Negaunee, MI. Sponsor: HIAWATHA ARC. Time: 8:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Richard E Schwenke, (906)249-3837, Email: n8gba@chartermi.net VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#). Location: Health Dept Bldg (Downstairs), 184 US 41 E, Entrance @ Back of building. Negaunee, MI 49866

Onalaska, WI
Sponsor: Riverland ARC, Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed), Contact: Roger C. Reader, (608)783-0723. Email: readers@centurytel.net. VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#). Location: Onalaska Public Library. 741 Oak Ave S. Onalaska, WI 54650

Oshkosh, WI (Omro)
Oshkosh VE Team Amateur Radio exams monthly on the second Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon. Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail: lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Ozaukee, WI
Sponsor: Ozaukee Radio Club. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed), Contact: John G. Kraak. (414)332-6722. Email: jkraak@wi.rr.com. VEC: [Milwaukee VEC](#). Location: Circle B Recreation Center, 6261 State Road 60, Cedarburg, WI 53012

Portage, WI
Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook St., Highway 33, Portage, WI. Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed), Contact: Edward J. Wagner, (608)584-4858 Talk in on 146.52.

Email: ab9fn@arrl.net. VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#). Location: Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E Cook St, Highway 33, Portage, WI 53901 Talk-in Frequency 146.520 MHz.

Racine, WI
ARRL VEC Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/.27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Paul B. Smedegaard, N9RGW, 929 Lathrop Ave., Racine, WI 53405-2339. Telephone: (262) 637 4750. or e-mail to smedegaa@wi.net

Rockford, IL
Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC) Third Saturday of every month. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Held at St. Anthony Hospital, 5660 E State St., Rockford, IL. Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail: WB9QYV@aol.com.

Sheboygan, WI
Sheboygan County ARC (ARRL/VEC). Exams are held in the Red Cross Building, 2032 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The test areas are handicap accessible with signage posted to direct candidates to the proper area of the building. Walk-ins are accepted, however notification ahead of time of your intention to appear would be appreciated. Contact: Art Pahr K9XJ, 920-876-2370. N8029 Willow Road k9xj@arrl.net Plymouth, WI 53073-2929

Tomahawk, WI
Tomahawk ARRL VE Team (ARRL/VEC). Last Saturday of every month, January thru October. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and test-

ing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633, dcollins@newnorth.net.

St. Paul, MN
Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC) First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. Test Site: St. Paul Technical College, 235 Marshall Ave., St Paul, MN. Ed Van Cleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108. www.qsl.net/sprc/index.html.

Upper Michigan sites::

Washington Island, WI
Contact: John W. Van Sandt, (217) 826-8821. n9yrx@hotmail.com

Wausau, WI.
Sponsor: WVRA. Time: 2:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed). Contact: Gerald L. Graebel, (715) 842-9542 Email: w9glg@arrl.net. VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#). Location: American Legion Golf Course, 1001 Golf Club Rd, Wausau, WI 54403

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Ken Ebnetter, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901.
Please do NOT send cash.

WISCONSIN SECTION MANAGER REPORT

(Continued from page 6)

contact with the military stations. Special commemorative certificates will be awarded to anyone who receives and copies the digital Armed Forces Day message from the Secretary of Defense. Full details, stations and frequencies, are on the ARRL Web site at this address: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/af-day/AF-Day-2005-SKED.pdf>.

** The Wisconsin Valley Radio Association will be participating in the 2005 ARMAD. ARMAD stands for Amateur Radio Military Appreciation Day. ARMAD is set for May 28 and will start at about noon-shortly after the conclusion of the City of Wausau's Memorial Day Parade and will wrap up at about 5:00 p.m. local time. The purpose of ARMAD is for amateur radio operators and groups to set up operations in public areas and allow anyone who stops to visit the chance to attempt to pass along words of encouragement to the men and women of the United States Military both stateside and abroad. ARMAD is intended to give everyone the chance to support each other and express our thanks to those who sacrifice and serve in the armed forces. Anyone interested in helping can contact Jerry Graebel at w9glg@wvraclub.org

** Thanks to the ORC for the suggestion of converting those old 5.25 inch floppy disk file boxes into QSL storage containers! Good idea! It pays to save things and Hams are especially good at that!

** Our appreciation to Pete Sweeney, WD9JIB, SW DEC, and Rosie Maybee, KB9PZK, Adams County EC, and the Adams County ARES/RACES team for their involvement in handling the communications during the Adams county fire!

** Help needed! We need to enlist your assistance in updating the Wisconsin net listing shown on ARRL site: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/client/netsearch.html> (Click on "State Nets" and select Wisconsin). You will find a list of 129 Wisconsin nets. Denny, K9LGU, and I suspect that many of these need updating or simply no longer exist. Please let us know. If you are actively involved in a listed net and notice the need for a change in information, you may update the information for that net on-line. Just click on the net name and follow the instructions. Also, if you know of a new net that isn't listed, please submit it on-line or pass the word to Denny: k9lgu@arrl.net Thanks for your assistance in updating the Wisconsin net listing!

www.arrl.org/FandES/field/nets/client/netsearch.html (Click on "State Nets" and select Wisconsin). You will find a list of 129 Wisconsin nets. Denny, K9LGU, and I suspect that many of these need updating or simply no longer exist. Please let us know. If you are actively involved in a listed net and notice the need for a change in information, you may update the information for that net on-line. Just click on the net name and follow the instructions. Also, if you know of a new net that isn't listed, please submit it on-line or pass the word to Denny: k9lgu@arrl.net Thanks for your assistance in updating the Wisconsin net listing!

** From our esteemed Section Traffic Manager, Denny, K9LGU: FAQ #40 Is there anything I can do to help insure my message gets to the right person? We've spoken of preambles and the check of the text. The name, address, and phone number of the addressee is - of course - how the message gets where it's going. Include the correct first name, a middle initial if known, and the correctly-spelled last name. Give the complete address - street number, direction, and correctly-spelled street name. If there's an apartment number, include it. Then, list the telephone number -- area code first, exchange, and final four digits. If there's an alternate number, list that, too.

FAQ #41 What's WIN? The Wisconsin Intrastate Net meets in two daily sessions on 3662 as part of our section nets system. Notice the name specifies INTRA (within) state, as opposed to INTER (between) state. WB9ICH (early sessions) and W9UW (late sessions) have kept these nets functioning smoothly for many years. Ninth Region representatives take traffic from the early session - 7 p.m.- to the evening 9RN's and bring traffic for Wisconsin back to the late session at 10 p.m. And - if you check in - you WIN! 73 -- K9LGU/STM -- WI

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| N9CK | 20 | 104 | 96 | 8 | 228 |
| K9LGU 0 | 68 | 46 | 1 | 115 | |
| WD9FLJ 6 | 36 | 39 | 2 | 83 | |
| K9FHI | 0 | 27 | 35 | 0 | 62 |
| AG9G | 0 | 9 | 47 | 0 | 56 |
| KG9B | 1 | 9 | 43 | 0 | 53 |
| W9UW | 0 | 28 | 20 | 1 | 49 |
| WA9ZTY - JAN | 0 | 20 | 25 | 0 | 45 |
| N9TVT | 0 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| W9KKM | 0 | 2 | 37 | 2 | 41 |
| W9SWL | 0 | 4 | 34 | 3 | 41 |
| W9BHL | 0 | 4 | 36 | 0 | 40 |
| W9RSX | 1 | 11 | 23 | 2 | 37 |
| W9RCW | 0 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 33 |
| K9VU | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 32 |
| KE9VU | 0 | 20 | 9 | 0 | 29 |
| KN9P | 0 | 14 | 14 | 0 | 28 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------|---|----|---|---|----|
| WB9ICH | 0 | 14 | 4 | 0 | 18 |
| WA9ZTY- FEB | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 14 |
| W9PVD | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |

STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY
APRIL 2005

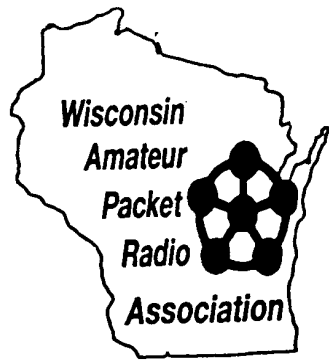
| STATION | ORIG | RCVD | SENT | DLVD | TOTAL |
|----------|------|------|------|------|-----------|
| K9JPS | 0 | 617 | 33 | 603 | 1253 -BPL |
| KA9EKG | 11 | 187 | 179 | 11 | 388 |
| K9LGU | 1 | 62 | 43 | 1 | 107 |
| K9FHI | 0 | 40 | 46 | 0 | 86 |
| AG9G | 0 | 10 | 58 | 0 | 68 |
| N9VE | 0 | 9 | 40 | 0 | 49 |
| W9UW | 0 | 29 | 19 | 0 | 48 |
| N9TVT | 0 | 0 | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| W9KKM | 0 | 2 | 35 | 2 | 39 |
| KE9VU | 0 | 16 | 20 | 0 | 36 |
| W9BHL | 0 | 6 | 28 | 0 | 34 |
| K9GU-MAR | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 32 |
| W9RCW | 0 | 0 | 32 | 0 | 32 |
| W9SWL | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 31 |
| W9IHW | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 31 |
| K9GU | 0 | 0 | 31 | 0 | 31 |
| KG9B | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 27 |
| AA9BB | 0 | 0 | 24 | 0 | 24 |
| KN9P | 0 | 11 | 10 | 0 | 21 |
| WD9FLJ | 2 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 15 |
| W9RSX | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 13 |
| K9UTQ | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| W9PVD | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

P S H R SUMMARY
MARCH 2005

| CALL | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | T |
|-------------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|
| N9VE | 34 | 40 | 30 | 265 | 0 | 0 | 369 |
| KG9B | 28 | 40 | 20 | 115 | 0 | 0 | 283 |
| KB9KEG | 40 | 34 | 20 | 155 | 0 | 10 | 259 |
| K9JPS | 33 | 40 | 10 | 150 | 0 | 0 | 233 |
| K9LGU | 40 | 40 | 30 | 20 | 15 | 0 | 145 |
| W9BHL | 40 | 40 | 30 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 135 |
| AG9G | 40 | 40 | 20 | 35 | 0 | 0 | 135 |
| K9FHI | 40 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 0 | 10 | 130 |
| WA9ZTY- JAN | 40 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 120 |
| WD9FLJ | 40 | 40 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 100 |
| W9RCW | 31 | 33 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 94 |
| N9TVT | 40 | 40 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 |
| W9RSX | 40 | 37 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87 |
| WA9ZTY-FEB | 13 | 14 | 30 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 77 |

P S H R SUMMARY
APRIL 2005

| CALL | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | T |
|--------|----|----|----|-----|----|----|-----|
| N9VE | 30 | 40 | 30 | 295 | 0 | 0 | 395 |
| K9JPS | 32 | 40 | 10 | 185 | 0 | 0 | 257 |
| KB9KEG | 40 | 37 | 20 | 150 | 0 | 10 | 257 |
| AG9G | 40 | 40 | 20 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 160 |
| K9FHI | 40 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 0 | 140 |
| K9LGU | 40 | 40 | 30 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 120 |
| W9BHL | 35 | 34 | 30 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 119 |
| W9RCW | 35 | 32 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 97 |
| N9TVT | 40 | 40 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90 |
| WD9FLJ | 40 | 15 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 75 |
| W9RSX | 40 | 13 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 63 |



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association
Joel Papke, N9BQM, Treasurer
7968 Ubinger Road, Pittsville, WI 54466-9214

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor—453 Cottage Grove Avenue—Green Bay, WI 54304—e-mail: kb9aln@tds.net

WAPR News - June, 2005 by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Happy summer to you all! As I write this in late May, we've just come off of a week of rain, with a rare good-weather weekend in the offing.

It will probably be too nice to do any antenna work, though. As any truly experienced amateur knows, antennas only work correctly when they are installed in weather that is barely tolerable for human exposure! But enough small talk, on to the issues at hand.

New E-Mail Address

First off, I do indeed have a new E-Mail address. Carrying out a threat made at least 2 years ago; I have changed providers and am now broadband-equipped. Please note the new address:
kb9aln@tds.net

For anyone who should have gotten the word, but didn't, I apologize. As always, I appreciate hearing packet news from anyone who has anything to report.

My Coming Respite

There is also some other news concerning me, and the level of activity you'll see in this space. Certain health considerations have forced me to drastically cut my workload and extracurricular activities, so to speak. Folks that know me well also know that I have a lot of irons in the fire, and am now forced to pull some of them out.

I fully intend to keep up with the news segments in this space, but will have to put the feature articles on hold for a while. I have had positive feedback from a few folks about these articles (though don't know how many people actually do read them). I'm sorry to anyone who finds them interesting to read.

The other thing that will be affected is the WAPR web site. It is a lot of time and work to update everything, and right now it will have to wait. If someone is interested in maintaining a WAPR Web site, I will certainly be glad to supply all of the material that was on the former site. If you have this interest, please drop me a line via E-Mail.

Regardless of whether someone else does this, the web site will eventually return, along with the feature articles, when this health challenge has passed.

WiFi Buzz

I have been reading with interest a lot of flood messages on the BBS concerning hams and WiFi, as in 802.11b wireless ethernet. There is a little debate about implementing them as a replacement for VHF 1200 bps regular use service. Imagine that, a debate on packet radio!

This was kind of a timely introduction of the topic, from our perspective. We've had 5 feature articles on the subject and we'll doubtless hear more about it. But what was interesting was the evolution of the discussion. A near-consensus among the discussion's participants was reached. They all eventually agreed that the technology is great for some uses, but people who are distant from a BBS (or not line-of-sight to it) may not be able to use it. They decided that there is a place for both and that it can nicely augment an existing BBS or nodestack.

This is certainly something that BBS operators and even casual packet users may wish to investigate. It doesn't have to be "one or the other", rather it can be both.

If you're experimenting with any newer technologies like this, drop me a line. If you'd like to write an article relating your experiences, by all means, you're welcome to do so here.

That's all for this time out. Until next time, 73 from Andy.

FCC proposes dropping Morse code requirement entirely

(Continued from page 1)

called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors will closely study the 30-page NPRM and comment further once they've had an opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing

requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees will easily be able upgrade to General once the code requirement goes away. The Commission also said its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140 already addresses some of the other issues petitioners raised.

A 60-day period for the public to comment on the NPRM in WT 05-235 will begin once the notice appears in the Federal Register. Reply comments will be due within 75 days. NNNN /EX

From *SB QST ARL ARLB018*

JUST A FEW FILLERS

"You see, wire telegraph is kind of a very, very long cat. You pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? And radio operates exactly the same way: you send signals here, they receive them there.

The only difference is that there is no cat."

--Albert Einstein

Here I am at the flea market but nobody is buying my urine sample bottles...

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year."

-- Mark Twain

He can compress the most words

into the smallest idea of any man I know. - Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865)

Since we're all here, we must not be all there.

-- Bob "Mountain" Beck

"The computer is incredibly fast, obedient, and myopic. It will precisely execute commands to the letter of your instructions in short order."

"There's two theories to arguin' with a woman. Neither one works."

-- Will Rogers

All are lunatics but he who can analyze his delusion is called a philosopher.

-- Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914)



*Yellow Thunder
Amateur Radio Club*



WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)
Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315
Robert Loomis, KB9VSQ, Secretary
108 Scarlet Ct., Reedsburg, WI 53959
YTARC Home Page: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/>

MINUTES OF APRIL 5, 2005
VOL. 4 BY John Stein

The meeting of the Yellow Thunder Ham Radio Club was called to order by President Steve Schulze at 1913 hrs on April 5, 2005.

MEMBERS PRESENT WERE 13 AS FOLLOWS:

W9ULK Gary Sorensen
N9JYX Leonard Wagner
K9JYX Don Evenson
N9NN Bill Timme
W9YYZ Wayne Burgess
N9UDO Steve Schulze
KB9CSW Dave Spearing
KA9TBO Maurey Gurgel
N9KXX Bill Klinkner
N9PQJ Tom Harrison
N9VWI John Nelson
KC9CVD Bill Stehling
N5SHF John Stein

The motion to approve the minutes was made by Don and seconded by Wayne. The Secretary's report was approved as submitted in report form.

The Treasury reported that we have money in the account and there are dues that needed to be deposited. There was the \$50.00 deposit for the building at the Sauk County Fair Grounds that will be used for the Circus City Swapfest on Saturday August 13, 2005. At this time there are 38 members paid up to date.

Morey moved to expect the report, Tom seconded by Tom. The report was expected.

OLD BUSINESS:

Steve is still working on the 501-C3 for the Yellow Thunder and ARES/RACES groups here at Sauk County.

Workday was on Mar 26th was break-fast at the Log Cabin in Baraboo along with a meeting of the BATS Group. After the spring meeting, the group traveled to the tower site and helped do the spring-cleaning. As well as some testing and

turning of the station there. Wayne set up a tour of the Baraboo TV Station for the group.

During the Wisconsin QSO Party on March 13 K9PQJ, KA9TBU with N9UDO worked it and hoped that more of the club members would find the time to get involved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill brought up the club will have an increase in the rate we pay in insurance for coverage of the club radio equipment. The increase will be in range of that will be \$100.00 to State Farm. The cost of renting the building is now \$300.00; with an additional cost of \$100.00 deposit for clean up. This year it is still \$50.00 to have the date reserved for our use. It was brought up that to help bring in more Ham's would be the introduction of door prize drawings that would come from the local merchants or auction them at that time.

The sale of food at time would help out to, if someone has a good low cost idea let us know.

It was asked if would be possible to have the people camp out at the fair grounds on Friday evening before the Swapfest, we will ask about that.

There will be ads in the Smoke Signal and also in ARRL Newsletter with the handouts, that dose not mean that you have nothing to do. Your help will be needed to make this event happen.

This year the Field Day will be held on the same day as the Circus Parade on Saturday June the 25th. There are plans to set up the field day camp the Friday before, and then the people working at the parade will not have to lose most of the day Saturday morning. We will need to know who will be able to help; you do not have to be a member Yellow Thunder to help. You will need a HT along with an extra battery. It would help to have water and something to eat. Then the sites that will need to have a ham are set up at time there will be a test day to find if all sta-

Ninth Annual!
CIRCUS CITY SWAPFEST
Sponsored by:
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Ham Radio, Computer & Electronics Extravaganza!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13, 2005
7:00AM UNTIL NOON

Sauk County Fairgrounds - Baraboo, Wisconsin

Vendors * Tail-Gate Area
Concessions * Free Parking * Camping

\$5 Admission, \$4 In Advance - 8 Foot Tables \$5 Each
(1 Admission Included Per Table - ADVANCE SALES ONLY) - Set-up 6:00AM

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| VE Testing 9:00 am Code - 10:00 am Written | The Sauk County Fairgrounds is located on highway 33, on Baraboo's far east side. From I-90/94: Take exit 106 (Hwy. 33) west to Baraboo. From Hwy. 12: Take Hwy. 33 east at the Kwik-Trip in West Baraboo. |
| Talk-In 147.315 Repeater +600 input w/123.0 PL WB9FDZ | For more information contact: Steve, N9UDO at (608) 356-2313 or n9udo@yahoo.com Bill, N9KXX at (608) 643-6908 days, (608) 643-6453 evenings. |
| Visit us on the Internet: www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm | |

For Advance Tickets, Send Check With A Self Addressed Stamped Business-Sized Envelope to:
Yellow Thunder A.R.C., 1120 City View Road - Baraboo, WI 53913

Company Name: _____ Phone #: _____
Contact Person: _____ Call Sign: _____
Address: _____ E-MAIL: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
No. Of Tickets: _____ X \$4.00= _____ Electricity Required? Y / N
No. Of Tables: _____ X \$5.00= _____ Total Amount Enclosed= _____
(one complimentary admission ticket with the purchase of each table - ADVANCE SALES ONLY)

tions will be able to talk with the NET CONTROL (Steve).

May 7th is the date of the St Jude Fishing Tournament at Merrimac on Lake Wisconsin. The six-boat launch sites will need hams at each one. If you can only help for part of the time we can still use your help. Also there will be several D&R boats and one Fire Rescue boat. So there will be three or four hams needed to ride with them. The start time is 0600 to about 1500 hrs, not all start at 0600 in the morning or last the whole day.

May 21st is the date for the Scout Heritage Days. That Saturday we need to set up displays for the Scouts. Steve (K9ODU) Tom (K9PQJ) Bill (K9ITW) with John (N5SHF) helping. We could use someone to be on call so the Scouts could see that it really works. Heritage Day displays will be on that Saturday from 0800 thru 1300 hrs.

The FCC will outline the new requirements for Technician and General and with these changes there will be

changes in the bands that can be used as Tec and Generals with a no code license. They will be released at Dayton, Ohio. You will still need your 5 words a minute to have use of all the bands.

The next meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc on May 4th at 7:00 pm in the Baraboo Court House on the first floor, as always use the SW entryway to the courthouse.



Sullivan will be using the Yellow Thunder repeater on April 17, May 7 and June 10 & 11th if there is servere weather we will then move to 145.310 with a 123.0 PL only if there is a need for Sullivan in the case of servere weather.

At 2036 Tom (K9PQJ) moved to have the meeting closed. Seconded by Bill (K9ITW), and it was passed.

Respectfully submitted by John Stein N5SHF

Buy it! • Sell it • Trade it • Fix it

SWAPFESTS

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| <div><p>2004 WINNER Nicholas Luther, K9NL Oshkosh, WI.</p></div> <div><p>34th ANNUAL MIDWINTER SWAPFEST WAUKESHA EXPOSITION CENTER WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN SATURDAY JANUARY , 2006</p><p><i>Both sponsored by:</i> THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC. <i>P. O. BOX 1072 · MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201</i></p></div> | <p><i>HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!</i> MADISON SWAPFEST Mandt Community Center <i>APRIL , 2006</i> 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton WI Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890 Swapfest Information Line. (608) 245-8890</p> | <p>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST 05 JULY 8, 2006 (Held every July) <i>American Legion Park</i> <i>Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI</i> (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail ryatex@aol.com</p> |
| | <p>The Chicago FM Club presents RADIO EXPO 2005 September 17-18, 2005 Lake County Fairgrounds, Rts. 45 and 120 Grayslake, Illinois Free parking • Amateur Exams • Talkin 146.16/76 Info Voice mail and FAX: (708) 457-0966 http://www.chicagofmclub.org P.O. Box 56784, Harwood Heights, IL 60656-0724</p> | <p>TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS HAMFEST 2006 March , 19 2006 YOUR SPRING FAVORITE ! www.cmdline.com/tcarc/ TCARC 213 Frederick St (920) 563-6381 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Evenings</p> |
| <div><p>www.ns9rc.org see the website!</p></div> <div><div><p>NSORC <i>Fest</i> <i>formerly known as LAMARSfest</i> Lake County Fairgrounds Grayslake, Illinois <i>04/XX/05</i></p></div></div> | | <p>The Milwaukee Repeater Club presents AMATEUR RADIO FEST 2005 November , 2005 Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Buildings For more information, see: http://www.mrc91.org e-mail mrc@mrc91.org or call (414) 526-7011</p> |
| <p>Ozaukee Radio Club 27th ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST MAY xx, 2006 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center Intersection of Highway 60 and County I Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno, 5119 W, Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222 Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive • Cedarburg WI 53012</p> | <p>Circus City Swapfest Sponsored by the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Saturday, August 13, 2005 • 7 am—Noon Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI</p> <div><p>Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area</p><p>\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables</p></div> <p>Steve Schulze, N9UDO • Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (606) 356-2313 • (608) 643-6908/643-6453 http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm,</p> | <p>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AUCTION Amateur Radio, Computers & Electronics Wed. OCT. 05, 2005, 6:00 p.m. <i>American Legion Post 434</i> <i>Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI</i> (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail: ryatex@aol.com</p> |

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